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# BARODA THROUGH THE AGES

( BEING THE REPORT OF  
AN EXCAVATION CONDUCTED IN THE BARODA AREA, 1951-1952 )

By  
BENDAPUDI SUBBARAO

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# EXCAVATIONS AT TIMBARVA

(BARODA DISTRICT)

APRIL 1953

By

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With a Foreword by

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FACULTY OF ARTS,

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## FOREWORD

Soon after the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda established the Department of Archæology, Shri R N MEHTA was selected as one of its trainees. This was in 1950. During these five years Shri MEHTA underwent a rigorous course of training in archæological explorations and excavations. He then undertook a survey of the ancient and pre historic sites in Central Gujarat and later dug independently at Timbarva, a small but important site near the still more important Karvan, near Baroda. The results of this work are set out here.

It gives one hope that promising students from Gujarat, if they are given an opportunity, will take to archæology from the earth, despite its rigorous discipline and not a too lucrative livelihood. For, an immense field in pre-history, proto history, as well as early history awaits exploration, not only in Gujarat but in the rest of India as well. If this is to be systematically done our Universities must come forward to encourage field work in archæology. In this respect the young University of Baroda has set a fine example, which may be profitably followed by other Universities.

Deccan College,  
Post graduate and Research Institute,  
Poona 16 6 1955

H D SANKALIA

## PREFACE

The area around Karvan, in the Dabhoi taluk and the adjoining area of the Sinor, Karajan and Baroda taluks of the Baroda District, is very promising for the study of the Early Historic Culture of central and southern Gujarat. The most important, but highly disturbed site is of course, Karvan, which awaits careful large scale excavations. The Borik mound of Timbarva, a small isolated mound at least two miles away from any near by village, is fast disappearing due to the brick laying and earth quarrying activities of the inhabitants of the village of Timbarva. This mound was selected for a small trial excavation for tapping the archaeological wealth of this region. The excavations were conducted in the first two weeks of April, 1953.

In the initial arrangements for starting the work, I was helped by Dr. B. Subba Rao and Dr. H. D. Sankalia. The camping arrangements at Timbarva were made with the help of local gentry, more particularly with that of Shri Hirabhai Samalbhai Patel of Karvan and Shri Chunibhai Sambhubhai Patel, Shri Haribhai Govindbhai Patel, and Shri Chunilal Karsanbhai Patel of Timbarva. There were some difficulties. The nearest source of water was about a mile and a half away—a well owned by Shri Thakorbbhai Patel of Timbarva. He was kind enough to supply us with water and other necessary facilities including the use of his farm house for storing our equipment.

In the actual field work, I was assisted by Shri S. N. Chowdhari, the Research Scholar of our Department. The drawings and photography in the field were done by both of us. The illustrations for the report were however prepared by Shri R. J. Khatri, S. Bardoliwala and Shri G. S. Telang, the draftsmen and photographers of the Department.

To Shrimati Hansa Mehta, the Vice Chancellor of the M. S. University of Baroda, we owe a sense of deep gratitude. But for the very personal interest that she has always taken in our work, the Department of Archaeology would not have been able to make the start it has made. Similarly it was Dr. Jivraj Mehta, who first gave us an opportunity to study the cultures of Baroda and lay trial trenches in Medical College area as early as 1948. The present excavation, as well as the other important projects undertaken by the Department have been made possible because of their constant encouragement.

I cannot fully express gratitude to Dr. B. Subba Rao and Dr. H. D. Sankalia who have always been a source of help to me throughout the work. Both of them very kindly went through the manuscript and made valuable suggestions.

# Errata

Page	Read	Instead of
1	the Microlithic	Microlithic
1	the Early Historic	Early Historic
1	at Maheshwar and Navada Todi in the Nimar District of Madhya Bharat,	in the Nimar District of Madhya Bharat, at Maheshwar and Navada Todi,
2	this site ( Fig. a )	this site ( Fig. a )
3	5th cent. B.C.	500 B.C
7, 15	Red-and-Black Ware	Red and Black Ware
19	T.C. Arecanut Beads :	<i>T C. Arecanut Beads :</i>
19	—	Kolhapur
22	Solid cylindrical type	<i>Solid cylindrical type</i>
23	Nasik.	Nasik and Jorwe.
27	Central	<i>central</i>
27	Malwa ( Fig 1 )	Malwa ( Fig. 1 )
27	( and the one lately.... ).	( and lately.... )
27	a step further backwards.	a step further.
28	Taxila	Taxilla
3, 9, 17, 18, 21	<i>Ibid</i>	Ibid

Fig. 15 Metal objects from Timbarva.

Fig. 16 Metal objects from Timbarva.

40  
Facing P. 23

I thank Shri V. D. Salgaonkar, the Principal, Intermediate College and Shri R. G. Shroff, for reading the proofs. I also thank Dr. U. P. Shah, Shri B. K. Thaper and Shri S. S. Merh, for supplying me with some useful information for this report.

Finally I express my sense of gratitude towards Shri V. Y. Kantak, The Dean, Faculty of Arts who took keen interest in this work, and in the progress of the Department.

Department of Archaeology,  
Faculty of Arts,  
M. S. University of Baroda,  
Baroda.

15th June, 1955.

R. N. MEHTA.

## INTRODUCTION

The Department of Archaeology of the M S University of Baroda is working on a systematic plan for tracing the material culture of Gujarat of the period before 1000 A D. The excavations carried out by the Department at Akota ( Baroda ) revealed that a long gap exists between the Early Historic and Microolithic Period.

It was therefore essential to take up the problem of this hiatus and try to discover the cultures existing during this dark period. The explorations around Kamrej and Karvan suggested the existence of the coinage of the Pre Christian era thus giving a hint about the possibilities of tracing back the historic cultures of Gujarat.

Karvan was an important religious centre being the seat of the Lakulisa sect, and was a flourishing township during the Early Historic Period. The explorations around Karvan resulted in the discovery of a number of small sites with Early Historic and Microolithic material. Out of them the Borik mound at Timbarva (Fig. 1) was selected for a small trial excavation to discover the existence of the cultures of the centuries preceding the Christian era.

Fortunately the excavations conducted in 1953 A D. revealed the presence of the Iron Age Culture associated with Red and Black Ware in association with the Northern Black Polished Ware. This culture lay under the Early Historic Culture revealed at Baroda.<sup>1</sup> It is therefore for the first time that the glimpse of the culture preceding the Christian Era was revealed by this excavation. Similar culture was observed in the Nimar District of Madhya Bharat at Maheshwar and Navada Todi and at Nasik in Maharashtra suggesting that this part of Gujarat had a material culture similar to that found in contemporary Malwa and Maharashtra.

### The Site

At the junction of the village boundaries of Timbarva, Banaj and Lingasthal is a low flat mound<sup>2</sup> about 8 acres in area and rising to a height of about ten feet from the surrounding plain of the black cotton soil of Kanam<sup>3</sup> ( 73 14" E 22° 2" N ). To the west and north is a low depression which gets filled with water in the monsoon and turns itself into a small marshy patch making this mound a prominent feature of the landscape.

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<sup>1</sup> The Early Historic Culture of Baroda was fairly wide-spread as can be known from the excavations carried out at Vadnagar by the Department of Archaeology of the M S University of Baroda.

<sup>2</sup> The mound is locally known as Borika. The term is difficult to explain.

<sup>3</sup> The area is known as Kanam because of the black cotton soil. The mound is in the zone of transition of the northern loessic loams and the black cotton soil of the Broach District.



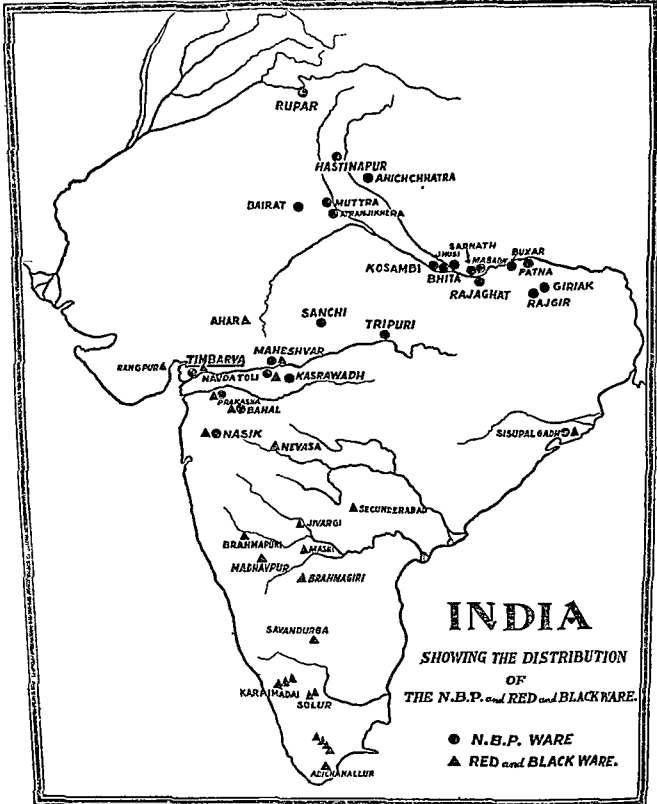


Fig 1



Fig. a

Lakulisa image of sand stone from Borik Mound, Timbarva

Some thirty years ago, this mound was studded with a heavy thicket of Babul trees, now completely cleared. At present very small shrubs and a few large trees cover this site. The mound is being destroyed by the villagers of Timbarva, who carry away earth from this area for household use and for making bricks. Except a very small portion in the centre, this mound has almost been levelled down by this activity (Fig 2)

The mound is in the revenue jurisdiction of the village Timbarva, in the Sinor Taluka of the Baroda District and lies at a distance of about two miles to the north-west of it. According to the local legends, modern Timbarva was re settled by Patidars in the 13th century. The fact that the earliest antiquities noted from the village are two memorial stones in 13th century style, seems to support this legend.

### Previous Work :

This site was brought to the notice of M R Majmudar by Bhaya Saligram Bechardasa a native of Karvan. Majmudar has noted a figure of Lakulisa from this site<sup>1</sup> (Fig a). In the month of December 1950 A.D., H D Sankalia, B Subba Rao and the author, examined the mound. A sand stone legged quern of Early Historic Period was discovered at this time. In May 1951, the site was again surveyed by the present author. A few sherds of Red Polished ware were recovered at this time.

Surface exploration of this mound revealed antiquities of the Early Historic period. Late mediaeval and Muslim cultures were totally absent here. This mound is very near the ancient township of Karvan which was an important religious centre, being associated with Lakulisa, the founder of the Paśupata sect<sup>2</sup>. This large town with a teeming population and pilgrims might have required a sufficiently developed "service area", and as such this village might have been included in the "service area" of that city. Its position between Karvan and Broach also suggested that it might have been a small halting station for the caravans moving between Broach and Ujjain via Karvan. The topographical position of this mound, therefore suggests the impact of cultural and commercial transactions between it and Karvan. This contact might have resulted in much material brought from the latter town. This material may help us to understand the culture of the early centuries of the Christian era.

### Aims and Objects

As already noted in the introduction, the cultures of Early Historic Period of Gujarat were imperfectly known. The excavations at Baroda and Amreli suggested a wide gap between the Historic and Pre historic cultures of this area. With a view to study the cultures of the Early Historic Period, and tracing them to the Pre-Christian period, if possible a small-scale trial excavation was undertaken on the undisturbed part of this mound.

<sup>1</sup> Majmudar M R. Antiquities from Karvan with reference to the Lakulisa worship p 61. fig VI, *Journal of the University of Bombay*, Vol XVIII, Part IV, January 1950.

<sup>2</sup> Mehta R N, Karvan—The seat of Lakulish sect, *Proceedings of the Fourteenth Session Indian History Congress*, P. 71ff.

## Chronology :

The chronology of the site depends entirely upon pottery, as no other datable evidence such as coins was recovered from the excavation. The main pottery types, on which the chronology depends are the Red and Black pottery, the Northern Black Polished Ware, the Red Polished Ware, and crude red ware with gritty porous smoky core, and the painted red ware with designs in black over the white band on red burnished slip.

The Red and Black type of pottery is found here in association with the Northern Black Polished Ware which is the crucial type for dating this site. "The origin of the Northern Black Polished ware has been tentatively associated with the fifth century B C. It is unlikely that future research will bring this dating forward on the contrary the possibility lies in the other direction."<sup>1</sup> The ware was used in India from about the fifth century B C and "there is no evidence that the N B P ware persisted anywhere in India after 2nd century B C."<sup>2</sup> This ware has been found in a number of sites in Northern India. From the available evidence, it seems that the focus of this ware was the Gangetic Valley with classical sites of Varāṇsi, Kausāmbi, Patnā and Rajgir. At Kausāmbi, with the help of the various closely dated phases of Gnositaram Monastery the ware can be definitely dated to 500 B C. Its occurrence at Taxila is also roughly dated by R. E. M. Wheeler as existing from 500 B C.<sup>3</sup>

Since in those days of slow and difficult travel, this ware could reach Taxila in 500 B C, and is found in early layers of the Satavahan period at Nasik,<sup>4</sup> it is highly probable that it might have come to Gujarat at least in about 400 B C. That the sherds are of fine texture and polish and do not show any degradation, suggests that the occurrence of N B P in Gujarat can safely be dated to c. 400 B C at the latest. The appearance of the Polished Red Ware and the disappearance of N B P, Red and Black Ware marks the end of this period.

The next important closely dated pottery is the Red Polished Ware in India. It might have originally been imported from Rome and later on successfully imitated in India. The imported Roman ware was found at Arikamedu and Chandravalli, Kolhapur and Karad in layers of early centuries of Christian era. At Baroda, it was found in association with two seals with prancing horses and crude red gritty pottery with inferior baking. At Baid it occurred below the layers bearing a Gupta coin. At Vadnagar it has also occurred with pottery similar to that from Baroda and lead coins. This persistent occurrence of this ware in early centuries of Christian era suggests that in Western India it might have been exist-

<sup>1</sup> A. Ghosh, 'Rajgir,' *Ancient India*, Vol VII, p. 70.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 71.

<sup>3</sup> R. E. M. Wheeler, 'Note on N B P,' *Ancient India* Vol I, p. 55.

<sup>4</sup> Information from H. D. Sankalia.



Fig 2 Borik Mound at Timbarva from the East

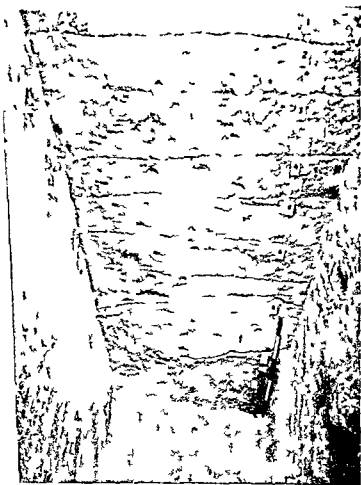


Fig 3 Section facing East

ing in the first three centuries of Christian era<sup>1</sup> At Timbarva the association of red polished ware with the crude gritty red ware similar to that found from Baroda suggest the same culture existing contemporaneously here also

The other pottery type is a red slipped ware with paintings in black on white background The beginnings of pottery was inferred at Baroda to be in the early mediæval period : c somewhere around 600 A D<sup>2</sup> Together with this were black burnished wares red burnished ware with occasionally black interior this association suggests that the culture was similar to that found at Baroda between circa 600 1000 A D The total absence of cultures of a date later than this at Timbarva suggests that the site was deserted by about the end of the 10th or 11th century A D It is likely that it was deserted during the armed conflict between the Chalukyas of Lata and the Chalukyas of Pāṭan

### The Trench

A small trench 12 × 8 was laid on the central undisturbed part of the mound in the magnetic east west direction For digging it was sub divided into six squares each measuring 4 × 4 and named A A<sub>1</sub> B B<sub>1</sub> C and C<sub>1</sub> Eight layers of archaeological deposit were noted in this trench The eighth layer was resting on the sloping natural earth and suggested much evidence of washed out material The other layers were quite steady occasionally disturbed by refuge pits dug at later periods of occupation No structural remains were discovered from this excavation but the discovery of burnt wattle and daub suggested that the residential quarters here might have been the huts of wattle and daub This surmise is further supported by the dearth of bricks or brickbats The total depth reached during the excavation was 16 The last layer was the black cotton soil which is the natural soil in this area This layer was sloping thus suggesting that the habitation started on a low small mound (Fig 3 & 4)

The following periods were noted in this excavation —(Fig 4)

### Period I

This period represented by the layers 8 7 6 and 5 is characterised by the Red and Black Ware in association with the N B P the plain red wares the burnished red ware with the slip varying from the lacquered red to light orange and the plain black ware The habitation started on the debris of washed out material This period seems to be the most flourishing one on this site

<sup>1</sup> B Subba Rao *Baroda Through the Ages* p 32f Appendix 1

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* p 50 The recent work at Vadnagar by the M S University of Baroda suggests that this ware can be dated to about two centuries earlier in North Gujarat But much requires to be done for taking the date of this ware back

# TIMBARVA

## SECTION FACING NORTH

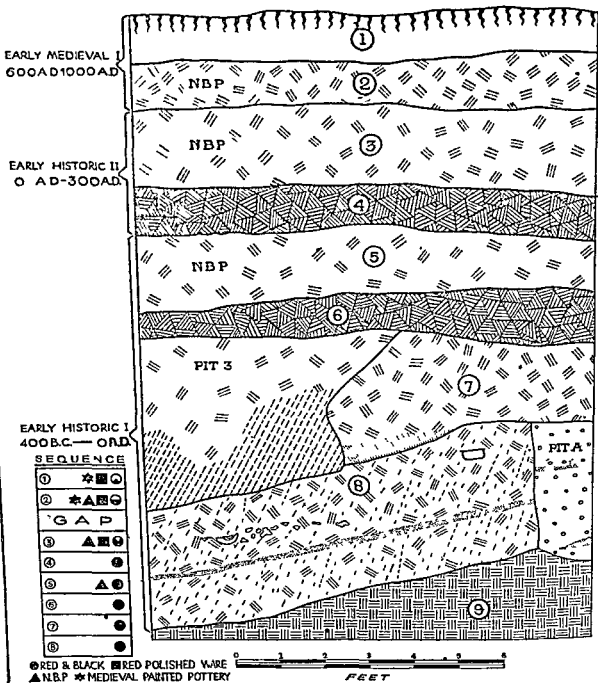


Fig. 4

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<sup>1</sup> B Subba Rao *Baroda Through the Ages* p 36f Appendix I

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* p 50 The recent work at Vadnagar by the M S U verities of Baroda suggests that this ware can be dated to about two centuries earlier in North Gujarat But much requires to be done for taking the date of this ware back



## Period II

This period is represented by the layer 4 and 3. Here the Red and Black pottery becomes extinct and only very minor sherds are occasionally seen. And new pottery types, viz the Red Polished Ware and the crude gritty ware with black interior, and the exterior varying from red to brown are found. These pottery types are characteristic of the Early Historic sites in Gujarat. Besides these, the crude red ware, the burnished red ware and a fragment of a red pot with design in white are also found. (Fig 5 no 7)

## Period III

This period is marked by the layers 1 and 2 and is characterised by the appearance of the new painted pottery. It is a red ware with painting executed in black over the white background. Together with it the mediaeval black burnished ware, the red slipped ware with the black interior become quite common. Crude red ware also persists in this period. Even though a few small pot sherds of the earlier periods continue, the Red and Black pottery of Period I appears to have entirely disappeared in this period. Apparently there was a gap between period II & III as can be seen by very fragmentary sherds of the preceding period mixed with those of the period III.

## Pottery

The largest number of antiquities recovered from this site were pot sherds. Practically no complete pot has been recovered from any layer. For the study, pottery has been sub divided in three periods

- (1) Period I—Pottery associated with the N. B. P. Ware
- (2) Period II—Pottery associated with the R. P. Ware
- (3) Period III—Pottery associated with the Painted Red Burnished Ware with designs in black over white background

## Pottery associated with the N. B. P. Ware in Period I

(Layers 8, 7, 6, 5)

Even though no N. B. P. was found below the layer (5), there was no change in other pottery types, therefore the pottery from layers 5 to 9 is studied in this group. This is the earliest (Period I) of the archaeological deposit here.

The N. B. P. is associated in this phase with Red and Black ware. This was recovered from a number of sites showing its widespread diffusion. Besides this ware the other wares associated with plain or burnished red wares plain black wares were very few. These are probably the local types current at Timbarva.

The pottery of this period is well fired with rather gritty porous core, in which sand and deglaissant has been used. The Red and Black ware suggests inverted firing while in the

same group are totally black wares which suggest that they were fired under a reducing condition

## N. B. P.

Six sherds of the N. B. P. were recovered from this excavation. Three sherds were recovered from layer (5) one from layer (3) and one from layer (2) (Fig 5 nos 16). Out of these pieces four are too fragmentary to suggest any shape. One of the remaining fragments is a slightly incurved rim of a small bowl while the other is a part of a rimless bowl similar to that found at Jhusi<sup>1</sup> and Rajghat<sup>2</sup>

All these pieces have beautiful steel blue polish which has been partly flaked off. The part where the polish has been flaked off shows grey colour. The core of these pieces is of very well levigated clay and even firing.

## Red and Black Ware (Fig 6)

The red and black ware shows the following forms —

- ( 1 ) A rimless bowl with flat base. Similar wares have been recovered from Brahmagiri<sup>3</sup>
- ( 2 ) A bowl with slightly incurved rim with an uneven flat base which is much narrower than that of No 1. The base shows the thumb and finger impressions of the potter<sup>4</sup>
- ( 3 ) A bowl with slightly incurved rim and rounded base
- ( 4 ) A bowl with rim similar to that of No 3 with rounded belly and a small flat groove below the belly on the inner side of the vessel
- ( 5 ) A variant of 4 with more rounded belly and no groove on it
- ( 6 ) A small bowl with slightly incurved rim and its belly is rounded from near the shoulder
- ( 7 ) A bowl with flared rim
- ( 8 ) A bowl with flared but slightly incurved rim
- ( 9 ) A bowl with nail headed rim
- ( 10 ) A deep bowl with incurved flat rim and three shallow grooves on the exterior
- ( 11 ) A deep bowl with slightly beaded rim and three incised lines on the exterior
- ( 12 ) A deep bowl with slightly beaded rim but it has no grooves on the exterior
- ( 13 ) A deep bowl with slightly incurved beaded rim and three shallow grooves on the exterior

<sup>1</sup> R. E. M. Wheeler & Kristadeva. Note on N. B. P. *Ancient India* No 1 Fig 10 IN

<sup>2</sup> Recently discovered by U. P. Shah

<sup>3</sup> R. E. M. Wheeler. Brahmagiri and Chandravalli: 1947. *Ancient India* No 4 p 210

Fig C 1 C 1 G also p 233 T 80

<sup>4</sup> Ibid p 233 T 81

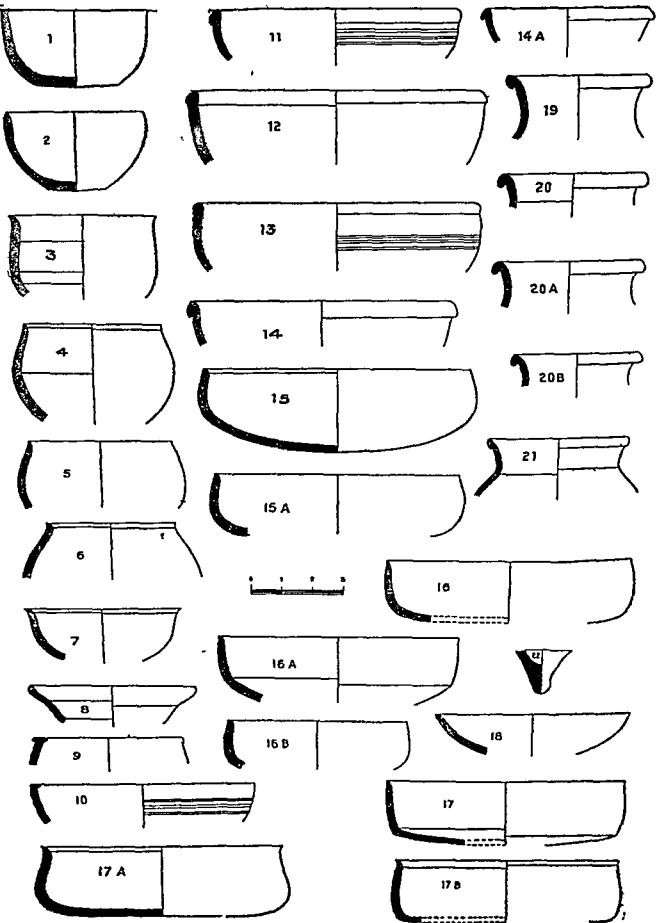


Fig. 6 Red and Black Ware, Period I

- ( 14 ) A deep bowl with beaded rim and a groove below the rim
- ( 14 A ) A variant of 14 in small size
- ( 15 ) A dish with slightly incurved rim, rather round belly and sagger base
- ( 15 A ) A variant of No 15 but with rather flat base.
- ( 16 ) A dish with lightly convex sides and flat base
- ( 16-A ) A variant of No 16 with a carination below the belly
- ( 16 B ) A variant of No 16 without any carination
- ( 17 ) A dish with almost straight sides, carination below the belly and sagger base
- ( 17 A ) A dish with excurved rim, rounded lower part of the belly and flat base
- ( 17 B ) A variant of 17-A with more flat belly
- ( 18 ) A rimless small dish, probably with much rounded base <sup>1</sup>
- ( 19 ) A pot with lightly beaded flared rim and high neck The part below the neck is missing
- ( 20 ) A pot with beaded flared rim with a groove below it The lower part of this pot also is missing
- ( 20 A ) A variant of type 20 with rather a larger groove
- ( 20 B ) A pot with lightly beaked rim and high neck The lower part of it is missing
- ( 21 ) A pot with slightly flared beaded rim and rounded upper part of the belly <sup>2</sup>
- ( 22 ) A blunted round base of a pot ( ? )

### Plain and Burnished Red Wares ( Figs 7, 8, 9 )

These were the local wares found in large numbers and they survive during all the period of habitation Most of them have no slip, while the others show fine red slip ranging from pale yellowish to lacquer red shades They are well fired with slight porous core They are invariably wheel made

Following shapes are noted in these varieties —

- ( 23 ) A rim of a large rimless bowl of red ware without any slip It has a well-burnt red, slightly porous core This core seems to be a general characteristic in this variety
- ( 24 ) A part of a shallow dish,\* with incurved beaded rim Two shallow incisions run horizontally below the rim on the exterior The sherd shows the signs of lacquer red slip which has been destroyed from most of its parts The core of this sherd suggests that husks were apparently used as degreasant

<sup>1</sup> R E M Wheeler, Ibid p 210, Type 8

<sup>2</sup> Ibid p 213

<sup>3</sup> Earthen ware with similar shape are known locally as \*Tansalis

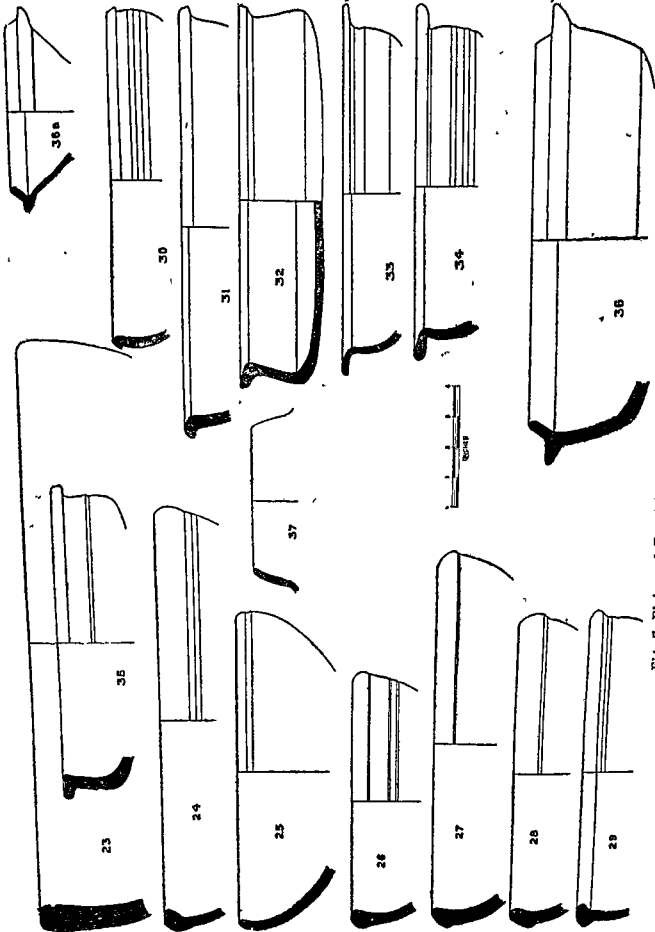


Fig. 7. Plain and Burnished Red wares, Period I

- ( 25 ) It is a fragment of a shallow bowl of plain red ware with slightly incurved rim having shallow groove at its neck
- ( 26 ) A shallow bowl of plain red ware with slightly incurved beaded rim and two grooves on the exterior Its core is similar to that of No 23
- ( 27 ) A shallow dish of plain red crude ware It has slightly incurved beaded rim with a shallow groove below it The core of it is porous and gritty with a smoky portion in the centre
- ( 28 ) A shallow dish having the rim similar to that of 27 but with rather pronounced beading and burnished red slip
- ( 29 ) A shallow dish with beaded rim and two grooves on the exterior. It has lacquer red slip, and gritty, rather porous, well fired core
- ( 30 ) A shallow bowl of plain red ware having slightly beaked rim and porous gritty core
- ( 31 ) A shallow dish of plain red ware, having excurved rim and gritty, rather porous core with even firing
- ( 32 ) A dish with slightly excurved rim and flat bottom It has lacquer red slip and gritty rather porous core with smoky centre This dish seems to have been used as a cooking vessel as much soot was adhering to its base and sides
- ( 33 ) A dish of plain red ware and highly excurved rim
- ( 34 ) A dish with colour and texture similar to that of 32, but with rather more excurved rim and two shallow grooves on the belly
- ( 35 ) A dish of light red burnished slip, with excurved rim having a shallow depression on its upper part and a shallow groove on the side, with carination on the lower part
- ( 36 ) A dish of lacquer red slip having incurved rim with flanged side, and a carination on the lower part of it The core of this vessel is porous, gritty and smoky
- ( 36 A ) A bowl of plain red ware with incurved rim with flanged side and gritty porous well fired core
- ( 37 ) A pot with slightly incurved rim and plain red body without any slip and rather porous gritty with burnt core
- ( 38 ) A pot with flared beaded rim and rather high neck, with texture similar to that of No 37.
- ( 39 ) A pot with flared beaded rim with a groove on the interior of the rim, and red body
- ( 39 A ) A pot with flared rim with rectangular section and rather porous, smoky, gritty core, and red body
- ( 40 ) A small red pot with slightly flared beaded rim and core similar to that of 39 A

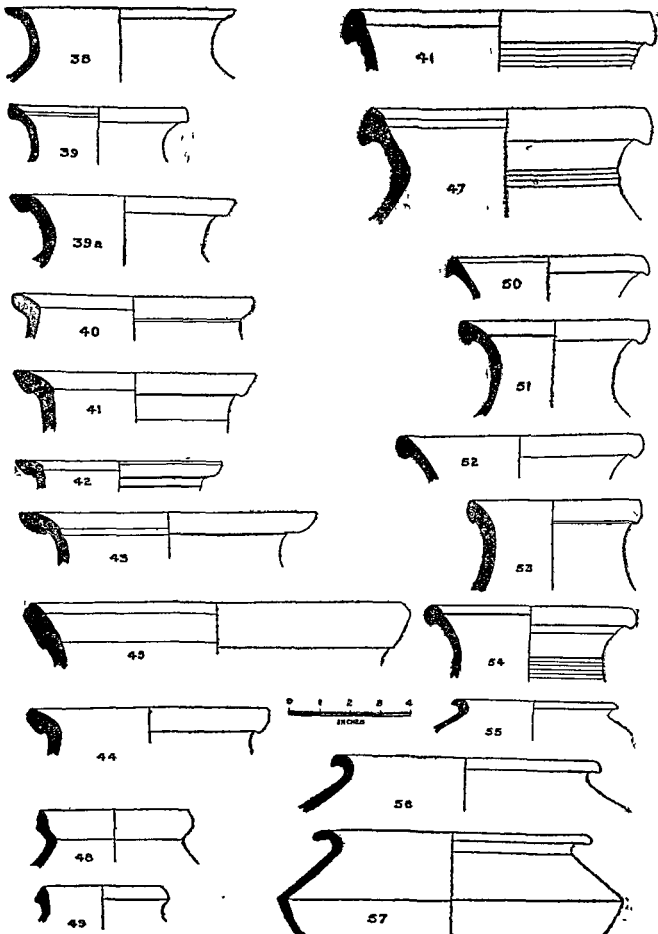


Fig. 8. Plain and Burnished Red wares, Period I

- ( 41 ) A pot of red gritty, slightly porous smoky core having flared beaded rim and a groove on the neck on the exterior and below the rim in its interior
- ( 42 ) A pot of rather porous gritty core, having flared rim with rectangular section and red slip, it has a shallow groove on the neck on the external side and a similar groove below the rim in the interior
- ( 43 ) A pot similar to 41 with a shallow groove below the neck on the exterior and rather porous, gritty core with smoky centre
- ( 44 ) A variant of 43 without any groove on the interior
- ( 45 ) A beaded rim of a large red pot
- ( 46 ) A pot with beaded rim red burnished slip and gritty smoky core
- ( 47 ) A large pot of red burnished slip and rather porous gritty well fired core having flared beaded rim with a groove below it in the interior and two shallow grooves on the exterior
- ( 48 ) A flared incurved rim of plain red ware It has a broad deep groove in the interior
- ( 49 ) A slightly beaked rim of a small pot of plain red ware with rather porous gritty well fired core
- ( 50 ) A beaked rim of a small pot having red burnished slip and core similar to that of 48 and 49
- ( 51 ) A pot with red burnished slip, which has been flaked off from it It has a flared lightly beaked rim and rather large neck
- ( 52 ) A pot similar to 51. The rim of this pot is well beaded and has a shallow groove on the interior of the rim
- ( 53 ) A beaded rimmed pot of plain red ware with gritty porous core
- ( 54 ) An upper part of a pot of burnished red ware with beaded rim, with a shallow groove on the internal side below it and five similar grooves on the neck
- ( 55 ) Upper part of a pot of plain red ware and beaked rim
- ( 56 ) A variant of 55 with much shorter neck
- ( 57 ) A pot of red burnished ware with rather porous gritty slightly smoky core and carination on the belly
- ( 58 ) A variant of 57
- ( 59 ) A rimless pot of burnished red ware with sharp carination on the belly
- ( 60 ) A rimless bowl with tan slip and evenly fired rather porous core
- ( 61 ) A deep bowl of crude red ware with slightly incurved rim This is a very crude ware used probably as a drinking cup They are known as "Panktis" in Maharashtra and "Kundu" in Gujarat They are even now very widely used in U P
- ( 62 ) A rimless bowl of crude red ware with slight carination at the base



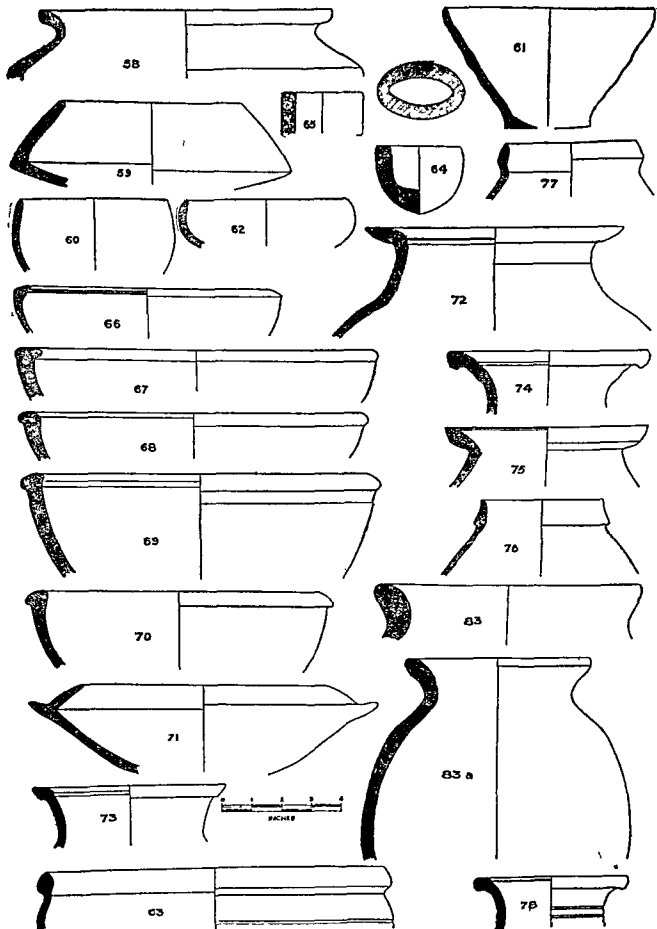


Fig 9. Pottery of Period I & II

- ( 63 ) A deep bowl with beaded rim and tan slip and a groove below the rim both on the inside and outside of it
- ( 64 ) A black object resembling half cut husk of a mango seed. It is oval in plan and has a rounded base. Similar objects were recovered from Nasik and Rupar<sup>1</sup>
- ( 65 ) A short hollow cylinder of black ware

### Pottery of Period II ( Layers 3 & 4 ) ( Fig 9, 10 )

The pottery from this period is found in association with the Red Polished ware. The crude gritty ware similar to that found at Akota, Vadnagar and Valam, plain red ware, red burnished ware and mica slipped pottery were recovered from these layers. The Red and Black ware was also found in very small quantity in layer ( 4 ) but they almost drop out after this in upper layers.

The following shapes are obtained from the layers ( 3 and 4 ) of this period —

- ( 66 ) A shallow dish with incurved rim of Red Polished Ware
- ( 67 ) A dish of plain red ware having incurved rim and well burnt porous gritty core
- ( 68 ) A dish of plain red ware with slightly excurved rim
- ( 69 ) A deep red bowl with slightly incurved rim with a shallow depression below the rim on the outer side of it
- ( 70 ) A deep bowl having beaded rim of plain red ware
- ( 71 ) A bowl with incurved rim and flanged side. It is a plain black ware with porous gritty, smoky core
- ( 72 ) A pot with excurved rim and a shallow groove at the base of the neck. It is a red slipped ware with porous, gritty core with smoky line in the centre
- ( 73 ) A slightly excurved rim of a red pot with a shallow groove on the inner side
- ( 74 ) A flared beaded rim with a groove on the interior. It has micaceous slip and gritty, porous well fired core
- ( 75 ) A small pot of plain red ware having flared rim, springing up from the shoulder. The rim has a small groove on its inner side
- ( 76 ) A pot of plain red ware having slightly flared rim with a broad shallow depression on the external side and a groove below the rim on the inner side
- ( 77 ) A pot of plain red ware with straight rim with a broad shallow depression on the inner side
- ( 78 ) A pot of burnished red ware having beaded rim with a groove on its inner side, and two shallow grooves on its outer side
- ( 79 ) A pot of plain red ware with slightly beaked rim

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<sup>1</sup> Information kindly supplied by H. D. Sankalia and Y. D. Sharma

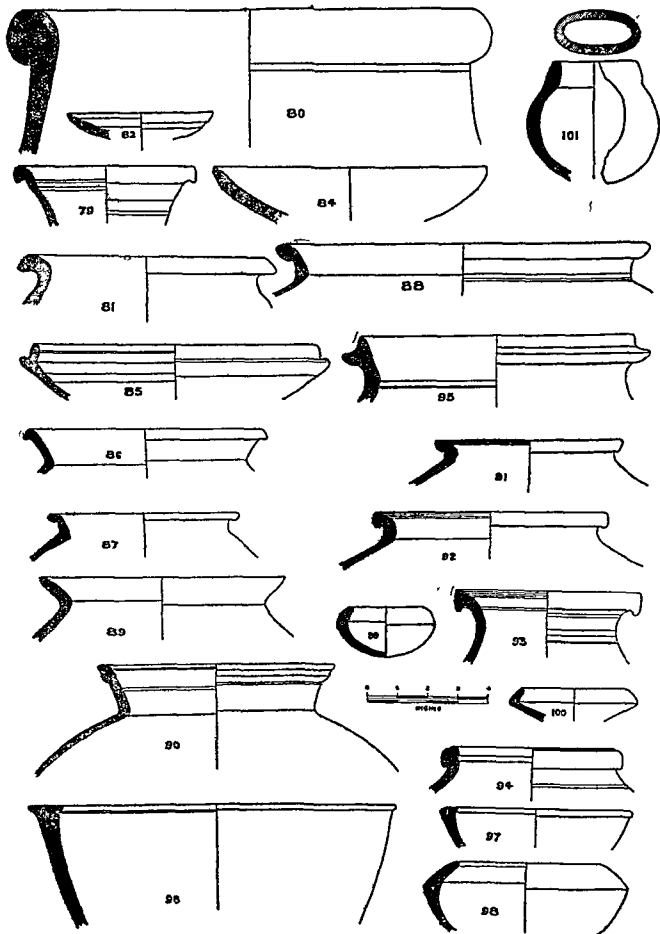


Fig. 10. Pottery of Period II and III

- ( 80 ) A beaded rim of a large jar of plain red ware having well burnt gritty porous core
- ( 81 ) A pot of burnished red ware with beaded rim and short neck
- ( 82 ) A rimless dish of black ware having smoky porous gritty core with affinities in the fabric to those discovered at Baroda and Vadnagar
- ( 83 ) A pear shaped pot with short neck and flared rim The texture of it is similar to that of 82
- ( 83 A ) A flared rim of a pot of texture similar to that of 83

Only one fragment of painted pottery was recovered from this period It is a fragment of red ware with three shallow grooves and the zigzag pattern in white between two horizontal lines of the same colour ( Fig 5 No 7 )

### Pottery of Period III ( layers 1 & 2 ) ( Fig 10 )

From the layers 1 and 2 pottery in association with the red painted ware with designs in black on white bands have been recovered A few sherds of earlier types continue but there is a general change in the pottery types The black burnished ware the red slipped ware with black interior are common in these layers The Red and Black ware had disappeared by this time The following shapes have been noted in the pottery of this period —

- ( 84 ) A rimless dish of red ware with smoky core Its texture is similar to that of Nos 82 83 & 83 A of Period II
- ( 85 ) A dish of crude black ware with smoky gritty porous core It has flanged side and slightly incurved rim Similar dishes have been discovered from the excavations at Baroda <sup>1</sup>
- ( 86 ) A pot of black burnished ware having flared beaked rim Its core is gritty porous and smoky
- ( 87 ) A pot of red burnished ware with smoky core Parts of it near the beaded rim are black probably due to inverted firing
- ( 88 ) A pot of black burnished ware with flared beaded rim short neck and sharp carination below the rim in the inner side of it This mediaeval ware occurs in periods IV and V at Baroda <sup>2</sup>
- ( 89 ) A pot of red ware and gritty porous well fired core has a flared beaded rim
- ( 90 ) A pot having red burnished slip on outside and black on the inner side It has a flared grooved rim Similar fabric was recovered from the mediaeval layers in the excavations at Baroda <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> B Subbarao *Baroda Through The Ages* Fig 21 Nos 88d 88e 88f 88g

<sup>2</sup> Ibid P 46

<sup>3</sup> B Subba Rao *op cit* p 46 Type 69

- ( 91 ) A pot of black burnished ware having a short neck and flared rim with two grooves. The neck of this ware is not burnished
- ( 92 ) A pot of black burnished ware, having beaded rim with two grooves on the inner side and one below it on the outer side. The neck of this pot is not burnished
- ( 93 ) A beaded flared rim of a pot of plain red ware with rather high neck
- ( 94 ) A pot of black burnished ware with beaded grooved rim
- ( 95 ) A pot of black burnished ware with beaded grooved rim
- ( 96 ) A deep bowl with flattened rim. It has red colour on the outer surface while the inner surface is black
- ( 97 ) A small bowl with slightly incurved rim having a groove on the outer and inner side below the rim. The texture of it is similar to that of No 96
- ( 98 ) A small black rimless bowl with a carination on the belly
- ( 99 ) A bowl of red ware. Its upper part is burnished. It is similar to No 98 in shape
- ( 100 ) A fragment of a bowl of plain red ware having incurved rim
- ( 101 ) A pot of plain red ware with oval rim and pear shaped body probably hand made

A large fragment (TBRK 13) of red slipped ware with carination on the belly is decorated with two bands of white colour flanking a series of white irregular dots. Both the bands are decorated with oblique black lines enclosed by two horizontal lines of the same tint (Fig 5 No 8). This ware occurs at Baroda<sup>1</sup> and survives right upto the Muslim period. Another sherd (TBRK 38) is also similarly decorated but its design has faded away.

### Other Antiquities

Besides pottery, terracotta objects such as beads, stoppers, flesh rubbers, mother goddesses and objects of iron, gold, bone and stone have been recovered.

### Beads (Figs 11 & 12)

The beads of arecanut, biconical and spherical shapes have been recovered from this excavation. Arecanut beads are of quite common occurrence in India. They have been found at Harappa, Arikamedu, Brahmagiri, Chandravalli, Besanagar, Kosam, Ahichhatra, Karad, Nasik, Kolhapur, Kondapur and many other sites<sup>2</sup> suggesting that they have a wide distribution in time and space. These beads are found in all periods of history but at Kolhapur they were gradually on the wane in the Bahamani Period<sup>3</sup>. From other sites this type was recovered in the period assignable to 2nd to 4th Century A.D.<sup>4</sup>. They occur

<sup>1</sup> B. Subba Rao *op cit* p 50 also Mehta R. N. Archaeological Remains from Baroda *Bulletin of the Baroda Museum & Picture Gallery Vol IV Pts I & II* p 10

<sup>2</sup> H. D. Sankal & M. G. Dikshit *Excavations at Brahmagiri, Kolhapur* p 149

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* p 93

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid* p 93



Fig. 5.  
1-6 N.B P, 7 Painted sherd from period II,  
8, Mediaeval Painted ware.

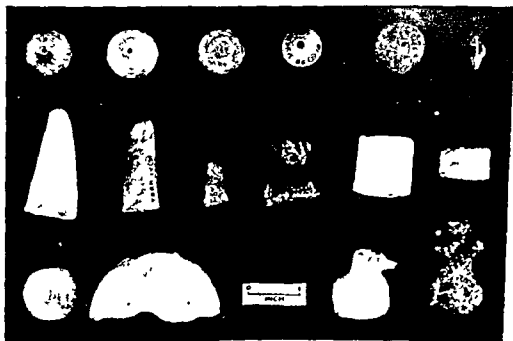


Fig. 12. The Terracotta objects from Timbarva.

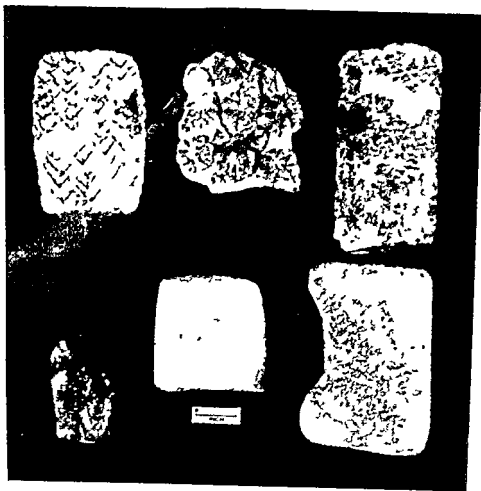


Fig 14 Terracotta and stone objects from Timbarva

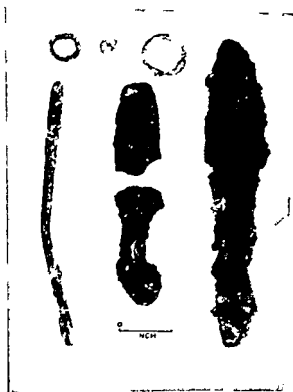


Fig 16 Metal objects from Timbarva

at Baroda in the Periods II-IV<sup>1</sup>. At Timbarva, the distribution of the arecanut beads is seen in Periods II and III. The other types of beads are also of frequent occurrence. Truncated biconical beads were recovered from Harappa,<sup>2</sup> Kolhapur<sup>3</sup> and Baroda,<sup>4</sup> while the spherical beads have also been recovered from Brahmagiri<sup>5</sup> and Kolhapur.<sup>6</sup>

The distribution and size of these beads from Timbarva is noted below :—

*T. C. Arecanut Beads :*

No.	Description	Size <sup>7</sup>	Layer	Period
1.	Black Arecanut type with concave bottom (TBRK 21)	20 × 15	2	III
2.	Black rather pointed top and flat bottom (TBRK 27)	22 × 17	2	III
3.	Black similar to 1. (TBRK 28)	20 × 15	2	III
4.	Black with long sides, and truncated top and rather concave bottom (TBRK 49)	13.5 × 10	1	III
5.	Red, flattened top and concave bottom (TBRK 33)	19 × 12.5	3	II
6.	Red similar to 4 (TBRK 34)	24 × 19	3	II
7.	Black flat bottom variant of No. 2. (TBRK 36)	20 × 15.5	3	II
8.	Red Pointed top and concave bottom (TBRK 44)	18 × 14	3	II
9.	Black truncated top and concave bottom (TBRK 56)	22 × 15	3	II
10.	Black fragmentary pointed top (TBRK 61)	— × 18	4	II

**Biconical Beads :**

Only one biconical bead (20 × 15) of red colour has been recovered from layer 7, period I. Another biconical bead of smoky quartz with flat hexagonal section (TBRK 72) (9 × 6) was recovered from layer 4, Period II.

<sup>1</sup> B. Subba Rao., *op. cit.*, p 77

<sup>2</sup> R. E. M. Wheeler., Harappa 1946: *Ancient India*, No 3, p 124 Fig. 26 No 29.

<sup>3</sup> H. D. Sankalia & M. G. Dikshit, (Kolhapur), *op. cit.*

<sup>4</sup> B. Subba Rao, *op. cit.*, Fig. 30, 182.

<sup>5</sup> R. E. M. Wheeler., *op. cit.*, *Ancient India*. No. 4, pl cxx.

<sup>6</sup> H. D. Sankalia., *op. cit.* 93

<sup>7</sup> Size is taken in millimeters, the first figure denotes the size at the broadest part, while the second figure denotes the height. The figures in bracket are the register numbers.



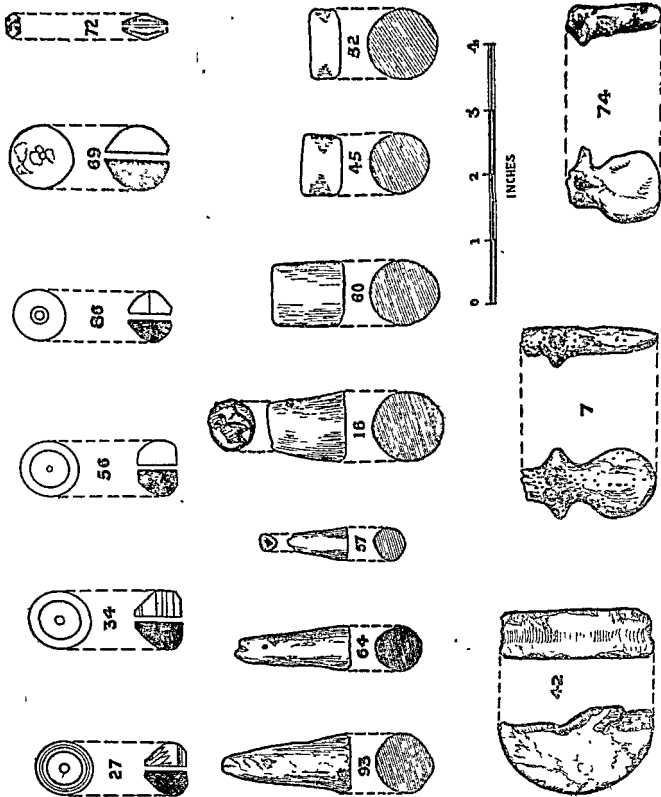


Fig. 11. The Terracotta objects from Timbarva (The numbers are those of the Register of antiquities)

**Spherical Beads :**

No	Description	Size	Layer	Period
1	Black roughly spherical hand made (TBRK 58)	17 × 15	4	II
2	" (TBRK 69)	25 × 25	5	I
3	" (TBRK 68)	24 × 23	5	I
4	" (TBRK 79)	34 × 31	7	I

**Stoppers (Figs 11 & 12)**

Terracotta cones and solid cylinders of different sizes and shapes have been recovered from excavation at Timbarva. Their exact use is unknown. Sir John Marshall believes that they might have been used in game.<sup>1</sup> Some of them have affinities with clay Śivalingas, made now 7 days in the month of Śravana, while the others look like stoppers. A few of them have perforations near the top suggesting that they were hung by passing a string through the perforation. Besides Timbarva, they have been recovered from Navada Todī, Maheshwar, Mohenjo daro,<sup>2</sup> Brahmagiri,<sup>3</sup> Harappa,<sup>4</sup> Nasik<sup>5</sup> and other sites. The types recovered from Timbarva are cones, cones with truncated top, perforated cones, cylinders of tall and flat varieties. Their distribution and details are as follows —

**Cone With Pointed Top :**

No	Description	Size	Layer	Period
1	Red Conical partly oblique base (TBRK 59)	7.5 × 26	3	II
2	Black thick with flat base (TBRK 93)	44 × 64	Pit 2 sealed by 7	I
3	Red with partly oblique base and curved side (TBRK 93)	26 × 55	7	I

**Cone with truncated top :**

1	Black with a depression on the top (TBRK 52)	10 × 25	3	II
2	Black with truncated and perforated top and oblique base (TBRK 16)	29 × 32	4	II

<sup>1</sup> John Marshall, *Mohenjo Daro and The Indus Civilization*, Vol II, p 478 also R E M Wheeler, *op cit* *Ancient India*, No 4, p 269

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> R E M Wheeler *Ibid* p cxxii 12

<sup>4</sup> R E M Wheeler, *op cit*, *Ancient India* Vol III, p 129 pl L. 10

<sup>5</sup> Information kindly supplied by S B Deo of Deccan College Post graduate Research

3	Thin black with truncated top and oblique base (TBRK 17)	8 x 26.5	5	I
4	Similar to 3 but upper part broken (TBRK 18)	6.5 x —	5	I
5	Black with a hole at the top and oblique base (TBRK 57)	13 x 23	5	I
6	Red with truncated and perforated top and oblique base (TBRK 75)	19 x 39	5	I
7	Black with rounded truncated and slightly oblique base (TBRK 66)	33 x 54	6	I
8	Black broken at the top (TBRK 67)	14 x —	Pit 2 sealed by 7	I
9	Black truncated perforated and oblique base (TBRK 77)	17 x 23	6	I
10	Red and black slanting base and side, truncated perforated top (TBRK 64)	18 x 47	7	I

### Solid Cylindrical type

No.	Description	Size	Layer	Period
1	Black flat cylindrical <sup>1</sup> with partly concave sides (TBRK 4)	25 x 22	1	III
2	Red flat cylindrical with slightly concave sides (TBRK 45)	24 x 16	3	II
3	Red tall cylindrical (TBRK 60)	27 x 29	4	II
4	Black tall cylindrical with slightly concave sides (TBRK 67)	20 x 27	Pit 2 sealed by 7	I
5	Red with half side flattened (TBRK 87)	17 x 28	6	I

All these types are handmade and either well or crudely finished. The oblique base is formed by the action of the thumb while making it. The truncated top results from holding the clay on the top by the forefinger. This truncation is later on worked out so that hole like point or irregularly shaped top is formed. The slightly oblique side is also the result of the manufacturing process.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The stoppers with their height more than their diameter are noted as tall, and those with their height less than the diameter are flat.

<sup>2</sup> To know the exact reason of the shapes of these cones they were manufactured by the author, in the presence of H. D. Sankalia, Director, Narmada Valley Expedition, at Navada Todi in 1953.

## Discs :

Only two discs were recovered from layer 3. One of them is a circular red disc ( $27 \times 11$ ) while the other is also of similar fabric and colour with concave sides ( $61 \times 21$ ).

## Flesh Rubbers (Fig. 13 No. 90).

Three flesh rubbers were discovered from the excavation. They are rectangular terracotta blocks with herring bone patterns<sup>1</sup>. These finds suggest a long tradition for the use of such brushes at least in this part of India. The details of these brushes are as follows —

No	Description	Size	Layer	Period
1	Red fragmentary bath brush with herring bone pattern and red gritty porous core (TBRK 20)	—	3	II
2	Red bath brush with smoky porous gritty core and herring bone pattern (TBRK 90)	$62 \times 101$	8	I
3	Similar to 2	$59 \times 98$	8	I

## Mother Goddesses : (Fig. 11 12)

Two figurines of mother goddesses and one rather doubtful fragment were recovered from Period I layers 5 and 7. One of them is a red figure with almost rectangular lower part, compressed thin waist and well set breasts. The right hand of the goddess is broken while the left hand suggests that only the upper arm of this goddess was probably made. The head of this goddess is missing. The measurements at the broad part, waist and total height are  $28 \times 15 \times 35$ .

The other goddess (from layer 7) also shows similar tendencies of arm and breasts but the lower part of this figure is rounded. In this case also the head is missing. Its measurements similar to those of the preceding figure are  $28 \times 15 \times 52$ .

A third piece also from layer 5 of the same period may be a human figure but it is too fragmentary for any comments.

## Plaque (Fig. 13 No. 9)

Besides these mother goddesses a fragment of plaque ( $75 \times 86$ ) from period III has been recovered. It is a red plaque with smoky gritty core. On one side of it are raised lumps with incised lines suggesting a floral pattern. The other side is plain.

<sup>1</sup> Similar flesh rubbers are discovered from Nasik and Jorwe. Information kindly supplied by H. D. Sankalia.

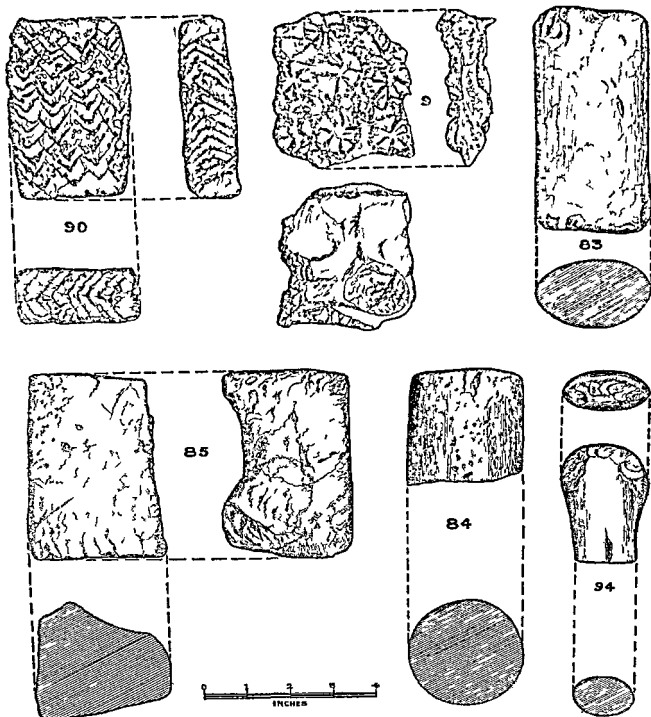


Fig 13 Terracotta and stone objects from Timbarva

## Seal

A lump of clay with circular, highly worn out impression on it was discovered from layer 1. The seal is too worn out to decipher anything from the impression.

## Unidentified Object (Fig. 13 No. 94).

A celt like stone object with oval section and flared sides was recovered from layer (7). Its use cannot be guessed.

## Bone Objects :

The bone objects found from layer (2) of the excavation are three points with circular sections, while the fourth specimen forms a round butt end of probably a kohl stick. No specimen from this group is complete. Similar objects were found from Taxila<sup>1</sup>, Nava-da todi, Nasik, Karhad<sup>2</sup> and Mohenjo Daro<sup>3</sup>.

## Stone Objects (Fig 13)

Six stone objects were recovered from the trench. One of them is a legged quern, two are pestles, one is probably a sharpener. The fifth is a quartzite biconical bead, while the sixth is probably a pestle. Their details are as follows —

No	Description	Size	Layer	Period
1	A quartzite of irregular shape probably a quern (?) (TBRK 88)	66 × 155	2	III
2	Black stone with depressed centre, probably a sharpener (?) (TBRK 50)	62 × 79	3	II
3	A sandstone pestle with oval section (TBRK 83)	62 × 120	5	I
4	A legged quern of sandstone <sup>4</sup> (TBRK 85)	112 × 80	6	I
5	A pestle with circular section (TBRK 89)	74 × 71	7	I

## Metal objects

Objects of copper, iron and gold were recovered from the excavation. The copper objects were a bar and a ring. The iron objects were mainly knives, nails, fragments of wire, plough share (?) and other utilitarian tools and implements. A gold pendant (?) was also recovered. The details of these objects are as follows —

<sup>1</sup> R E M Wheeler, Brahmagiri & Chandravalli, *Ancient India* IV, Pl XXXI B 14 17  
<sup>2</sup> John Marshall, Mohenjo Daro and the Indus Civilization Vol II p 470 also Pl CXXXII 7

<sup>3</sup> G S Khare, Explorations at Karad Pl XII D 3

<sup>4</sup> Legged querns are found from Vadnagar, Karvan, Salad in Gujarat and from Karad, Kolhapur, Nasik, Ujjain, Maheshwar, Taxila, Adichalanur, Perambair and Rairah from other parts of India. For details see H D Sankalia, Ghanti Ane Pata Sanskriti Ni Drstye.

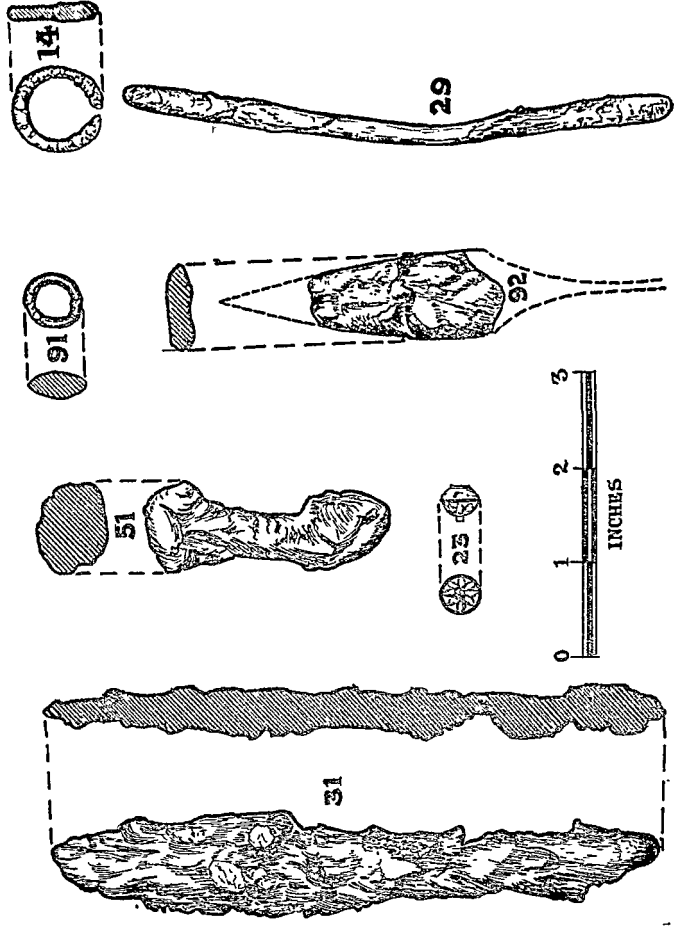


Fig. 15 Metal objects from Timbarva

## Copper Objects Fig. ( 15 &amp; 16 )

No	Description	Size	Layer	Period
1	Copper bar with rounded ends and circular section ( TBRK 29 )	6 × 140	3	II
2	A ring ( TBRK 91 )	External diameter— 14 Internal diameter— 10	7	I

## Iron Objects :

1	A wire turned into a ring ( TBRK 14 )	External diameter— 21	1	III
2	A broken fragment of, probably, a nail ( TBRK 32 )	20 × 65	2	III
3	Same as No 2 ( TBRK 25 )	15 × 35	2	III
4	A blade broken into three fragments ( TBRK 31 )	29 × 155	2	III
5	A nail with rectangular head ( TBRK 51 )	24 × 61	4	II
6	Fragment of an arrowhead ( TBRK 47 )	18 × 70	5	I
7	Highly corroded broken plough share ( ? ) ( TBRK 71 )	35 × 116	5	I
8	Fragment of a blade ( ? ) ( TBRK 80 )	16 × 37	6	I
9	Fragment of a blade ( ? ) ( TBRK 92 )	22 × 47	7	I

## Gold

Only one globular pendant ( ? ) of gold foil with upper part decorated with floral pattern by pressed gold wire chain was obtained from layer ( 3 ) Period II

## Conclusion

This small trial excavation successfully revealed for the first time the existence in Gujarat of an Iron Age Culture of the first four or five centuries before the Christian era. This culture with its iron implements, N B P, Red and Black ware and probably wattle and daub huts suggests that central Gujarat at least enjoyed a culture similar to that of contemporary Maharashtra, Khandesh and Malwa ( Fig 1 ). The later cultures bear close affinity to those already known from Baroda ( and lately discovered at Vadnagar )

This excavation thus takes the knowledge of the Early Historic Period a step further. Still, however much field work and carefully planned excavations at different sites in Gujarat are necessary for tracing the cultures earlier than those already discovered and bridging the cultural gap between the microlithic and later cultures.



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